DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 263 344 CE 042 823

AUTHOR	Sarle, Ruth; And Others
TITLE	Pregnancy and You. Courseware Evaluation for Vocational and Technical Education.
INSTITUTION	Ohio State Univ., Columbus. National Center for Research in Vocational Education.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Vocational and Adult Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	22 Aug 85
NOTE	10p.; For related documents, see ED 244 058 and CE 042 824.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Education; *Courseware; *Early Parenthood; Family Life Education; Instructional Material Evaluation; *Physical Health; *Pregnancy; Secondary Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Courseware Evaluation

ABSTRACT

This courseware evaluation rates the "Pregnancy and You" program, developed by Intellectual Software and sold by Career Aids, Inc. The courseware was rated by a team of home economists participating in a network designed to identify and evaluate courseware and disseminate reviews for vocational and technical teachers, media staff, and administrators. Part A describes "Pregnancy and You" in terms of subject area (pregnancy, maternal, child health), and hardware requirements (Apple II, IBM PC, or Macintosh), and indicates its suitability for use as a tutorial for ninth-grade through adult levels. Listed next are appropriate instructional grouping (individual and small groups) and time estimate (45 minutes). Availability information includes cost ($44.95), policies, and contact address. Part B contains the courseware evaluation criteria in eight categories; reviewer ratings appear as yes, somewhat, no, or not applicable, with explanatory comments. Part C summarizes the evaluation. The strengths of this program are that it individualizes technical information, is accurate and easy to use, and requires little supervision. Weaknesses include intensive reading, little audiovisual variety, lack of stimulation, and failure to review or give additional information. A summary section indicates that this courseware received the following overall ratings in the eight categories: subject matter has educational value--yes; technical presentation, student interaction, program interaction, student evaluation, and documentation are all adequate--somewhat; and work behaviors and application programs--not applicable. The final rating recommends this courseware with reservations, suggesting its use with self-motivated students. (SK)

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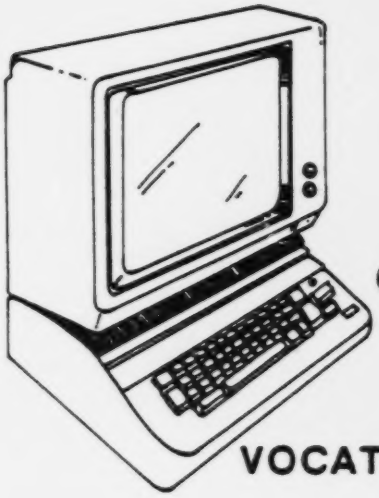

PREGNANCY AND YOU

COURSEWARE EVALUATION

FOR

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The evaluation of this courseware program was conducted by a team participating in the Courseware Evaluation Network. The Network, established in 1985, is coordinated by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The purpose of the Network is to identify, evaluate, and disseminate courseware reviews for vocational and technical education.

Each Network team includes three members, at least one of which is, or recently has been, a vocational or technical teacher in the subject matter area of the courseware being evaluated. The evaluation represents a synthesis of the opinions of the team members. It is suggested that the evaluation be used as a first screening device for courseware and that the teacher also evaluate the courseware program on the basis of specific student needs.

The Courseware Evaluation Form and Guide used for all of the Network evaluations was developed by the National Center and is available through its cost-recovery system.

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COURSEWARE EVALUATION FORM

NOTE: If you are using this form for the first time, read the instructions in the accompanying Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide.

Evaluator Ruth Sarle/Sue Saravelle/Barbara Reed

Position State Home Economics Supervisor; Secondary Home Economics Teacher; Retired Home Economics Supervisor

Date August 22, 1985

Part A: Courseware Description

In the following sections, record descriptive information about the courseware that you are evaluating.

I. IDENTIFICATION

Program Title Pregnancy and You Date 1983

Series Title Health Series

Vocational Area(s) Home Economics; Health; Personal and Social Development

Subject Area(s) Child; Health Sciences Development, Family Living and Parenthood; Health Related Activities.

Topic(s) Pregnancy; Maternal/Child Health; Birth Related Health Practices

Developing Agency Intellectual Software

Street or P.O. Box 798 North Avenue

City Bridgeport State CT Zip 06602 Phone (800) 232-2224

Author(s) _____

Programmer(s) _____

II. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Microcomputer* Apple IIe, IIc, IIt (48k), IBM PC & PCjr (64k) Macintosh (128k)
(brand/model)

K Memory Required _____
(number)

Medium of Transfer (include number of each):

- ___ Tape cassette
- ___ ROM cartridge
- X 5¼" Flexible disk
- ___ 8" Flexible disk
- ___ Other _____ (specify)

Programming Language _____ DOS Specifications _____

Other Specifications _____

Peripherals Needed (check all that apply):

- ___ Color monitor
- X One disk drive
- ___ Two disk drives
- ___ Plotter
- ___ Game paddle(s)
- ___ Joystick(s)
- ___ Modem
- ___ Mouse
- ___ Printer
- ___ Graphics tablet
- ___ Light pen
- ___ Voice/sound instrument
- ___ Clock
- ___ Video disk
- ___ Touch screen
- ___ Ten-key number pad
- ___ Other _____ (specify)

*NOTE: Provide the above information for any additional hardware on which this program can be used. _____

Machintosh - 3½" disk

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III. PROGRAM FEATURES (check all that apply):

___Network version provided
___Multiple copies required
___Program can be modified
X Program protected
___ Data disk needed
___ Field-test data available

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING

Program mode (check all that apply):

___ Application
___ Drill and practice
___ Educational gaming
___ Simulation
X Tutorial
___ Other _____ (specify)

Student Target Population (check all that apply):

X Regular
___ Disadvantaged
___ Handicapped
___ Limited English
___ Bilingual
X Gifted

Grade Level (check all that apply):

___ K-6
___ 7-8
X 9-10
X 11-12
X 13-14
X Adult
___ Higher Education

Instructional Grouping (check all that apply):

X Individual
X Small group (up to 4)
___ Large group (4 or more)
___competitive interaction
___ cooperative interaction

Prerequisite Student Skills (specify) _____

Accompanying Materials (specify types):

Documentation Print and Program

Student support materials None

Teacher support materials None

Correlated materials None

Estimated Time for Use 45 minutes

V. AVAILABILITY

___ Free_____ (copies)

___Loan_____ (time)

___ Duplication (requestor supplies disk)

X Sale $ 44.95

___Rent $_____ _____ (time)

Copyright Restrictions (explain) Copyright 1983

Back-up Policy (explain) Available for $10.00

Preview Policy (explain)_____

Update Policy (explain) _____

Contact Career Aids, Incorporated

Street or P.O. Box 20417 Nordhoff Street, Dept. K65

City Chatsworth State CA Zip 91311 Phone 818) 341-8200

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Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

Indicate the applicability of each section to the courseware being evaluated by checking either "___ A" (applicable) or "___ N/A" (not applicable). If a section is not applicable, proceed to the next section. If a section is applicable, check the column that indicates how well the courseware meets each criterion. Include any comments.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
I. SUBJECT MATTER X A ___ N/A					
1. Subject matter has educational value.	X				
2. Student objectives are stated.			X		
3. Subject matter is accurate.	X				
4. Subject matter is logically presented.	X				
5. Subject matter is free of race, ethnic, sex, and other stereotypes.	X				
6. Subject matter is on the level of the students.	X				
7. Information and skills presented are comparable to those used in the home, business, or industry.		X			Home-Personal
8. Subject matter motivates students to learn.	X				
9. Subject matter is reviewed and summarized.		X			Only on incorrect answers
10. Program utilizes the unique capabilities of the microcomputer to present the subject matter.			X		Limited to Reading
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION X A ___ N/A					
1. Program is free of technical problems.	X				
2. Presentation rate is adequate to maintain interest.	X				
3. Information on the screen is easy to read.		X			
4. Program is free of spelling and grammatical errors.		X			
5. Program instructions are easy to follow.		X			Initial instructions Confusing
6. Color increases the instructional value of the program.				X	
7. Audio increases the instructional value of the program.			X		
8. Graphics increase the instructional value of the program.			X		Graphics could improve motivation and attention

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	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
III. STUDENT INTERACTION X A ___ N/A					
1. Students can use the program with minimal assistance.	X				
2. Students are actively involved in the program.		X			Lots of reading
3. Students control the pace of the program.	X				
4. Students can access the program "menu(s)" to change activities.	X				
5. Students are permitted to change answers.			X		
6. Methods of responding correspond to the level of the program.	X				
7. Students' errors of entry are processed so that the program continues to run.		X			
8. Students can access available "help" and "hint" options at any time.			X		
9. Students can enter or exit the program as desired.	X				
10. Students control the sequence of the program.		X			Not after user is into program
IV PROGRAM INTERACTION X A ___ N/A					
1. Feedback is immediate.	X				
2. Cues and prompts are provided to assist students in answering correctly.		X			Information remains on the screen
3. Feedback reinforces the correct responses.	X				
4. Feedback is nonthreatening.	X				
5. Program helps students understand wrong answers.			X		Just highlights correct information
6. Program gives the correct answer after a reasonable number of tries.				X	
7. Positive reinforcement is varied.			X		
8. Program has the ability to branch/loop depending upon students' performance.			X		
9. Feedback is on the level of the student.	X				
V. STUDENT EVALUATION X A ___ N/A					
1. Evaluation provides a means for measuring attainment of objectives.				X	No objectives stated
2. Program reports which items were missed and which were correct.		X			No summary

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	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
V. STUDENT EVALUATION—*Continued*					
3. Individual student performance results are available to the teacher.	X				
4. Class performance results are available to the teacher.		X			
5. Program provides for printed copies of evaluations.			X		
6. Test item formats are suited to the material being tested.		X			
7. Test items are clearly stated.		X	X		
8. Test item bank is provided.					
VI. DOCUMENTATION X A ___ N/A					
1. Documentation is easy to understand.		X			
2. Documentation is accurate.	X				
3. Student objectives are stated.			X		
4. Underlying concepts are outlined.			X		
5. Skills to be developed are specified.				X	
6. Procedures for integrating the program into the curriculum are provided.			X		
7. Follow-up activities are suggested.			X		
8. Documentation explains the intended use of support materials.				X	
9. Sufficient information is provided to operate the program.	X				
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS ___ A X N/A					
1. Program helps students identify their vocational skills.					
2. Program promotes pride in work.					
3. Program promotes productivity.					
4. Program encourages good work habits.					
5. Problem solving is encouraged.					
6. Program promotes good human relations skills.					
7. Program provides an opportunity for work satisfaction and self-fulfillment.					
8. Program encourages creativity.					

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	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS ___ A _x_ N/A (to be completed for application programs only)					
1. Program is adaptable to the needs of the student.					
2. Commands are easily remembered.					
3. Information is easily manipulated.					
4. Corrections are easy to make.					
5. Program includes all necessary variables.					
6. Program performs reliably.					
7. Program efficiently achieves its intended purpose.					
8. Trial data are supplied for learning to run the program.					
9. Program provides for use of printer when hard copy of information is advantageous.					
10. Program moves from operation to operation efficiently.					
11. Program is compatible with other application programs.					
12. Program has a supplementary tutorial program available.					

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Part C: Courseware Evaluation Summary

1. SUMMARY COMMENTS

Identify strengths of the courseware:
Individualizes technical information (special populations - pregnant teens).
Accurate information provided efficiently.
Easy to use.
Little supervision required.

Identify weaknesses of the courseware:
Intensive reading.
Little visual or auditory variety
Lacks stimulations
Doesn't review information or give additional information for those who don't understand

Describe uses of the courseware in an instructional setting:
Individualization of course information
Small group.

2. SUMMARY OF SECTION

Rate the quality of the courseware for each applicable section of this form by checking the appropriate column; if not applicable, check N/A.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A
I. SUBJECT MATTER: Content has educational value.	X			
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION: Program is free of malfunctions.		X		
III. STUDENT INTERACTION: Students are actively involved with the program.		X		
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION: Feedback is effectively employed.		X		
V. STUDENT EVALUATION: Evaluation adequately measures student progress.		X		
VI. DOCUMENTATION: Documentation is sufficient to run the program.		X		
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS: Program assists students in developing positive work attitudes and skills.				X
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS: Program performs the task for which it is intended.				X

Part C: Courseware Evaluation Summary

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Check your recommendation for the courseware and explain your reasons below.

___ Highly recommend
___ Recommend
X Recommend with reservations
___ Do not recommend

See weaknesses above.

Self-motivated students could use this.

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Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide: Form and Guide
for Vocational and Technical Education

Developed by:
Shirley A. Chase
Ruth Gordon
Richard C. Makin

For Further Information Contact:
The Program Information Office
National Center for Research in Vocational Education
The Ohio State University
1960 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210
800-848-4815 or 614-486-3655 in Ohio

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